

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently amended) An appliance base for a washing machine of the type having a wash tub and a mechanism extending below the wash tub, the base comprising:  
a tray having a substantially flat rectangular bottom panel for supporting the washing machine; and  
an insert disposed within the tray and having a centrally disposed opening for receiving and securing the washing machine mechanism, the insert being formed from a single cut and folded blank;  
~~The appliance base of claim 2~~ wherein the tray further comprises four corners and the insert further comprises four legs extending radially from the centrally disposed opening toward the four corners of the tray, each leg comprising a pair of downwardly angled panels connected along a first fold line extending from the centrally disposed opening, each downwardly angled panel sloping downward from the ~~diagonal~~ first fold line to an attachment panel that mates face-to-face with and is affixed to the bottom panel of the tray, each downwardly angled panel and the corresponding attachment panel forming an obtuse angle.
4. (Currently amended) The appliance base of claim 3 wherein the first fold lines are aligned with the diagonals of the bottom panel.
5. (Currently amended) The appliance base of claim 4 wherein the attachment

panels are connected to the downwardly angled panels along second fold lines.

6. (Currently amended) The appliance base of claim 5 wherein each downwardly angled panel is attached to an adjacent downwardly angled panel on an adjacent leg by a third fold line.

7. (Currently amended) The appliance base of claim 6 wherein each third fold line is aligned with an orthogonally bisecting line of the tray bottom panel.

8. (Currently amended) The appliance base of claim 2 wherein the downwardly angled panels define the centrally disposed opening ~~that receives and secures the washing machine mechanism.~~

9. (Original) The appliance base of claim 8 wherein the centrally disposed opening is raised above the tray bottom panel.

10. (Currently amended) The appliance base of claim ~~2~~ 3 wherein the tray further comprises side panels connected to and extending upward from the bottom panel.

11. (Original) The appliance base of claim 10 further comprising members adhered to the tray and wherein the members, bottom panel and side panels define slots for receiving vertical support posts.

12. (Currently amended l) The appliance base of claim 11 wherein ~~the washing machine has feet and~~ the members have openings formed therein ~~for receiving the washing machine feet.~~

13. (Currently amended) The appliance base of claim ~~2~~ 3 wherein the tray and insert are formed from corrugated board.

14. (Currently amended) A base for a machine of the type having a portion centrally suspended below another portion of the machine, the base comprising:

a load bearing tray having a substantially flat rectangular bottom panel for supporting the machine, and side panels connected to and extending upward from the bottom panel; and

an insert disposed within the tray, the insert formed from a blank that, when folded in accordion fashion, assumes a substantially ~~pyramid~~ pyramidal shape defining a centrally disposed opening raised above the bottom panel and configured to receive and secure the centrally suspended portion of the machine.